

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 38 of 1878.]

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 21st September 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād"	Rājshāhye ...	.....
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhavanīpore ...	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ...	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Cālnā Prakāsh"	Cālnā ...	.....
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawābgang, Barrack-pore.	.....
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta	.....
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	658	12th September 1878.
11	"Bhārat Sanskarak"	Harinābhi ...	.....	13th ditto.
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ...	.....
13	"Bishwa Dūt"	Tāliganj, Calcutta	.....
14	"Bardwān Prachārikā"	Bardwān ...	165	
15	"Bardwān Sanjīvanī"	Ditto ...	.....	17th ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	400	15th ditto.
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	1,168	13th ditto.
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	11th ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishinī"	Dacca ...	300	7th and 14th September 1878.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	.....	11th September 1878.
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....	13th ditto.
22	"Pratikār"	Ditto ...	235	13th ditto.
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinī, Rangpore ...	250	
24	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah ...	516	15th ditto.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta ...	.....	16th ditto.
26	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Ditto ...	.....
27	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto ...	5,500	14th ditto.
28	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhavanīpore ...	700	14th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
29	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta ...	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Calcutta ...	550	12th to 17th September 1878.
31	"Sambād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	.....	14th to 19th ditto.
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	10th to 18th ditto.
33	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	.....
34	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ...	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	15th September 1878.
36	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	.....	13th ditto.
37	"Barisāl Vartābāha"	Barisāl ...	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	400	14th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
39	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār"	Mazufferpore ...	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	18th ditto.
41	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	.....	19th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
42	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto ...	250	20th ditto.

POLITICAL.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
September 7th, 1878.

1. We extract the following from an editorial in the *Hindu Hitaiishini*, of the 7th September, headed "Cabul and the English Government":—

The keeper of a tiger confined in a cage must not think himself safe just because he feeds it; and feeding a young snake with milk only tends to increase its venom. The British Government is about to be deceived and to court danger in its attempt to give support to Cabul. There can be no doubt that Russia, which has brought about the downfall of Turkey, and whose action led to the Congress at Berlin and accounts for the diminished prestige of England among civilized nations, casts its eyes on India, the most highly-prized possession of the British. We are not, therefore, confident that there will be any peace after all this storm and trouble. The editor then refers to the contemplated embassy to Cabul, and remarks: If a rupture with Cabul seems probable, it behoves the statesman who is at the helm of affairs in India to take timely warning and hold himself in readiness. But he must be careful to guard against the course pursued by Lord Auckland, which brought reproach on the English name. The clear duty of the British Government, under the circumstances, is to gain over Yakub Khán to their side.

SAHACHAR,
September 16th, 1878.

2. The *Sahachar* thus expresses himself on Cabul affairs: Although the occupation of Khelat by British troops must be regarded as the cause of the Amir's dissatisfaction, still he has not done well by intriguing with Russia. No other course was, therefore, open to the British Government save its present policy of sending an embassy to Cabul. Russia should not be allowed to advance further.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
September 7th, 1878.

3. We make the following extracts from an article in the *Gramvarta Prakashika*, of the 7th September, headed "Effects of light-handed Legislation":—

Although in India, at the present moment, the productive power of the soil seems to have diminished, and, in consequence, there are only insufficient crops, the Legislative Councils of the country, on the other hand, show signs of increasing prolificness. Acts are being turned out in batches. There have been instances in which Acts have been passed at one sitting of the Council. The enactments thus passed, however, are necessarily imperfect and defective. The Civil Procedure Code is, for instance, a defective piece of legislation, and needs amendment. We shall, however, in the present article offer a few remarks on Act VII (B.C.) of 1876—The Land Registration Act. There can be no doubt that the people of Bengal will be greatly benefited by this Act; although, for the present, some expense, suffering and needless litigation are unavoidable. Persons will put in claims to land which is not in their possession, although they may be proprietors. In the Act itself there are defects. There is, for instance, provision for registering the names of "proprietors of revenue-paying and revenue-free lands." Now, what is the meaning of this word "proprietor"? From the definition of the word, as given in section 3, clause 8, a proprietor must fulfil two conditions,—he must be in possession of a property, and this as owner thereof. Now, it so happens that a person who is in possession of a piece of land for more than 12 years, although he may not be the owner, acquires, under the laws now in force, a sort of proprietary right to it, and hence he may have his name registered as proprietor, which is not proper. There is,

again, no provision made in the Act for cases in which a person, who is not an owner, has been in possession of property for less than twelve years. Whose name is to be registered in such a case? The name of the person in possession? or of the person who, although he is the rightful owner, is dispossessed? Section 55 provides for any case of dispute which may arise regarding possession, succession, or acquisition by transfer; and it lays down that if, in the opinion of the Collector, the matter be one which can more properly be determined by a civil court, he shall refer it for determination to the principal civil court of the district; the latter tribunal will decide the matter summarily, and order the registration of the name of the party actually in possession. In our opinion, the Act should be explicit as to whose name ought to be registered, whether that of the party in wrongful possession, or that of the proprietor not in possession.

4. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 12th September, offers the following observations on the proposal to establish appellate benches in the mofussil:—

Appellate Benches in the Mofussil.

In the name of all poor suitors, we protest against the proposal. As it is, they find great difficulty in coming to the head-quarters of the district to institute appeals. For this purpose they have to come a great distance and incur considerable expense. But if now, to reach the appellate benches, a greater distance must be traversed, justice will, in a manner, be banished from the country. If a person living in Susang has to come to Dacca, a distance which he cannot hope to journey over in less than 9 days, to institute an appeal in a suit worth Rs. 10, how many will care to prefer appeals at all? It will be in a manner closing the doors of justice against the people if these benches do not hold their sittings in every district, and suitors are required to travel a great distance for the purpose of instituting their appeals. For the benefit of all suitors who are poor, it is suggested that all petitions should be received, as now, by the District Judge, and that the bench should periodically hold its sittings in each district. Of course this may not be very easy in localities which do not possess the advantage of railway communications.

BHARAT MIHİR,
September 12th, 1878.

5. The *Bhārat Mihir* repeats that the people are groaning under the pressure of taxation, but that fresh imposts must continue to be levied so long as the present expensive system of administration is maintained. Direct taxation is not suited to this country. The people would much rather pay an indirect tax of two rupees than pay two pice directly with all the harassments attending such an impost. The rate at which a tax is fixed by Government is often different from the rate levied; one has often to pay ten times the sum to which he would be liable if assessed at the rate fixed by Government. In the course of the article, the recent reduction of the salt duty is thus referred to: What was the need of this measure? If the abolition of the customs line was really deemed necessary in the interests of civilization, it would be better to wait for a more convenient opportunity. The reduction of the salt duty has not in the least benefited the country or the poor. They are not even aware that the salt duty has been reduced.

BHARAT MIHİR.

6. The *Bhārat Sanskarak*, of the 13th September, asks Government and his contemporaries of the press, to direct their attention to the case of Arádhān Dās who recently filed an affidavit against Mr. Wight, a judicial officer in Assam. The Chief Commissioner of Assam, a civilian, eager to shield the accused, who also is a member of the civil service, has dismissed it on grounds which are utterly frivolous. The public, however, continue to regard Mr. Wight with

The case of Arádhān Dās.

BHARAT
SANSKARAK,
September 13th, 1878.

a suspicion, which, in the interests of good government, should be removed as soon as possible.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
September 13th, 1878.

7. In an article on the Police Department, the *Education Gazette*, of the 13th September, remarks: It would be dishonest to deny that there has been considerable improvement in the police.

According to many, the work of reform will not be complete so long as educated men do not seek admission into the police. Yet much has been done in this respect. The number of well-educated men is, of course, very small in all departments of the public service. The chief fault of the police officers is that they are generally haughty, and do not often mix with the people. They seek in vain to secure esteem by inspiring fear. They are generally wanting in courtesy; and the people dislike them from the belief that they may at any moment be insulted by them. Bribery and corruption have decreased, but not to the same extent as in other Departments. And the reason of this is that, in the police, there are greater facilities for receiving illegal gratifications. We do not say all this from any desire to censure the police, but because there are many competent men who hesitate to enter this branch of the public service on account of the contempt with which it is regarded. Officers of the police ought to be courteous, and should entirely get rid of the notion, which is however fast disappearing, that without a certain amount of dishonesty there can be no success in their work.

PRATIKAR,
September 13th, 1878.

8. The *Pratikar*, of the 13th September, remarks that the chowkidari tax will never be properly collected so long as the work is done by *puncháyets*.

And the reason of this is that *puncháyets* do not realize the importance of their duties. The time spent in attending to the matter of this tax is regarded by them as lost. They take it up only to please the Magistrate, and in consequence the work is done perfunctorily. Appointments to the *puncháyets* are not judiciously made. Persons are selected for this office who are unprincipled, and have no independence of mind. It is no wonder that they make inequitable assessments. Adverting to the strictures passed by the Lieutenant-Governor upon the inefficiency of the police, this paper observes: We admit that the police is to some degree inefficient, but for its shortcomings the higher authorities should be held responsible. Officers in this Department are now required to get through such an amount of reading and writing, that very little time is left for the discharge of more important duties. What with diaries, forms, registers, and statements, they have not leisure either for their meals during the day or for rest at night. All sorts of work are thrust upon them. They are expected to do almost everything. If any postal arrangements are to be made, it is the police which must make them. When officers are on tour, the police must arrange for their food and lodgings. They must provide elephants and horses if any of the authorities wish to go out hunting. They are required to do the marketing for the wives of the officers; they must tend the children whenever the District Superintendent's *áyáh* is laid up with a head-ache; and they must bury the Magistrate's horse when it dies. They must furnish the Civil Surgeon with mortuary returns, the Bengal Government with crop reports, the Executive Engineer with statements regarding the height of the rivers, and the President of the Economic Museum with information regarding the nutritious properties of food-grains. It is they who must supply information on all subjects. The consequence is that, not being either omniscient or almighty, they have but little leisure for their legitimate work. Add to this, they are ill-paid, overworked, having small prospect of improving their position, are exposed to constant reprimands, and are compelled to render frequent explanations. Hence it is that we do not hold the police to be utterly inefficient.

9. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 14th September, remarks that Act IX in its amended form will prove a more rigorous piece of legislation than it originally was [see the remarks of the *Sādhārani*]. Government is asked to repeal the whole Act, as there is not the slightest need for it, and as it has been condemned by all right-minded persons in England and India.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR
September 14th, 1878.

10. The *Sādhārani*, of the 15th September, writes as follows in an article headed, "Act IX distilled or amended."

SADHARANI,
September 15th, 1878.

Act IX amended.

In accordance with the instructions contained in the despatch of the Secretary of State on the Vernacular Press Act, certain amendments have been made in the Act. [Here the amendments are noticed.] If this be amendment, we do not want it. The Act is made more stringent than before. It has hitherto been sufficiently difficult for a printer of a native paper to stand before a European Magistrate to prove the harmlessness of an article contained in it; still an attempt would have been made. The privilege or opportunity of self-defence has now been taken away. It may have been regarded as a curse, and some people may be thankful that it has been removed. We believe, however, that whether difficult or easy, there should be allowed more than one means of self-defence. The amended Act does away with the provision by which a paper could be published if only the editor gave an undertaking to shew the proof-sheets to a Government officer appointed on this behalf. The measure in its altered form is the essence of rigour untempered by any mercy or forbearance. Hence it is that we do not want any amendment. Let the Act remain as it is. Hearing that a Bill was to be introduced into the Indian Council for the amendment of Act IX, the Indian Association sent a telegram praying for the repeal of section 10 and the insertion of a section allowing a judicial trial to the publisher of any paper regarded as offensive. Although we must regard this request of the Indian Association as perfectly reasonable, still the procedure adopted in the trial of the Surat editors has so utterly confounded us that trial in a criminal court does not any longer appear desirable. It is not pleasant to have to spend three or four months in prison before a trial comes on. We therefore think that the prayer of the Association does not meet the case. Provision should be made for allowing a judicial trial of offenders, for release on bail, and for an investigation, where it may appear that the police has tutored witnesses to depose against the defendants. The procedure adopted at the Surat trial has really frightened us.

11. On the same subject, the *Sahachar* of the 16th September makes the following observations:—The public have no reason to be gratified at the amendments

SAHACHAR,
September 16th, 1878.

Act IX amended.

proposed to be made in the Vernacular Press Act; for, with the exception of a few passages, the measure remains much the same as before. Hence we have no reason to be thankful to Lord Lytton's Government in this matter. Our countrymen, however, need not despair. It is true that the popularity of the present Ministry has now reached its meridian; but the English nation is fully aware of the injuries that this Ministry has inflicted on the Constitution within the last two years; and the Liberals are gradually acquiring fresh strength. So that although there is little hope of the Act being repealed so long as Lord Beaconsfield is in power, it will be done away with the moment the Liberals return to power. In the meantime, the editors are besought to be careful in their writings, so that the authorities may not be able to find any fault with them.

SAHACHAR.

12. Adverting to the letter of Government to the Commissioner of Patna, on the condition of the tenantry in Behar, the same paper says that the proposals made by the Lieutenant-Governor are excellent.

The condition of the tenantry in Behar.

Great evil arises from the absence of leases and their counterparts in Behar. The zemindars keep their accounts in any way they please. To prevent this, they should be required to keep their accounts and write their receipts on water-marked paper, which should be made available at the Collector's office. And if an account were kept in the Collectorate of the sheets of this paper indented for by each landlord, there would be little chance of altering documents in any way. Nor would ryots be able, if this were done, to produce fictitious receipts. But there is no mention made of one important point in the Lieutenant-Governor's letter, and that is, the exorbitant rent-rate which now obtains in Behar. If there is any desire to benefit the ryots, this should be reduced. Such a course will doubtless put the zemindars to some loss for the present; but they will be able to recoup themselves as the ryots increase in prosperity. Is it not better to be paid rents regularly every year, although at a lower rate, than to have no rent for two successive years after the lapse of every five? The Collector should be authorized to interfere whenever wages are too low to leave a margin of profit to the laborer. The desire of the tenantry to be relieved from all liability to pay rent is as natural as that of the landlord to enhance the rents. The question being one which affects the public weal, it cannot be dismissed simply on the ground that the fixed incomes of particular individuals are threatened. The interference of Government is needed in this matter, as even a partial failure of crops, and the existence of high rents, lead the ryots to ask for help from the State.

SOM PRAKASH,
September 16th, 1878.

13. We take the following from the opening editorial in the *Soma Prakash* of the 16th September, headed "Sir Ashley Eden and the tenantry in Behar."

The condition of the tenantry in Behar. Sir Ashley Eden may have a thousand faults, but his one great virtue—the love he bears to the people—has counterbalanced all of them. We are really charmed to notice his generous concern for the people of Behar. His Honor has for a long time sought to ameliorate their condition, which is one of extreme hardship. [The editor then gives the substance of the letter recently published in the Gazette, from the Government of Bengal to the Commissioner of the Patna Division, respecting the appointment of a committee to consider the question of improving the rent-law in Behar.] We cannot sufficiently express the pleasure we have felt in watching these efforts of Sir Ashley Eden's, and we sincerely pray for their success. In this matter we shall render him all the assistance we can. As remarked by him, no improvement in the condition of the people can be secured by the mere enactment of a law. There can be no improvement so long as the people are ignorant of their true interests. Education alone can teach them where their interests lie. His Honor should therefore use means to impart education to the people of Behar. The one great reason for the difference observable in the respective conditions of the inhabitants of Behar and Bengal, is to be found in the fact that the former sadly lack intelligence. They labour hard, but it is labour not directed by intelligence; it is labour such as characterizes brutes. In Behar, the work of education must precede all attempts to ameliorate the condition of the people. Government should incur a larger expenditure for educational purposes in this province, and the cost should be wholly borne by the State. No assistance in this work can be expected from the people, all classes of whom are steeped in ignorance.

SOM PRAKASH.

The editor concludes the article by asking His Honor to entrust the working of the rules he may make for the benefit of the tenantry in Behar, to honest, generous and experienced officials.

14. Adverting to the comments made by this paper on the new draft Bill (see paragraph 13 of our report of the 31st August 1878) for the purpose of facilitating the collection of rents by zemindars, a correspondent remarks that, in many districts, especially in places to the west of the Hooghly, the first instalment of rent is paid in *Ashár* or *Shrávan* and not in *Ashwin*, as stated by the editor. The correspondent further differs from him in holding that the condition of the peasantry is not, after all, so bad as it is represented to be by certain newspapers. Nor are the present landlords so given to acts of oppression as their representatives of old. The zemindars are now an impoverished class. Owing to the division of estates among different co-sharers, the collection of rents is not an easy task. The dates on which the different instalments of rent are payable by the ryot, ought not to be changed so long as the dates for the payment of Government revenue remain unaltered; otherwise the effect would be to ruin the landlords. The writer opposes all the arguments adduced by the *Soma Prakásh* against the Bill.

SOM PRAKASH,
September 16th, 1878.

LOCAL.

15. The *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 6th September, observes that the making of a change merely for the sake of change, which is a characteristic of the British nation, is often productive of injurious consequences. Thus the removal, under the orders of Mr. Mackenzie, of the criminal and collectorate courts of Moorshedabad to a distance from the civil court, has considerably inconvenienced the inhabitants. We are, however, glad to learn that the District Judge has, at the request of Government, given it as his opinion that all the offices in this district should be concentrated in either the old hospital or the present jail building. If this proposal is carried out, a great boon will be conferred upon the inhabitants.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
September 6th, 1878.

16. The *Grámvartá Prakáshiká*, of the 11th September, states that the recent floods of the Ganges will greatly benefit the *amun* crop. Many fields are already laid under water. That more have not benefited in this way has been due, not to the lowness of the floods, but to the circumstance that the mouths of many canals have silted up. Since neither landlords nor tenants have yet manifested a disposition to attend to this matter, it behoves Government to take it in hand and use means for the removal of the silt.

GRAMVARTÁ
PRAKASHIKA,
September 11th, 1878.

17. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 12th September, beseeches His Honor to order that the Dacca and Mymensing Railway should be commenced this cold season. The people of these provinces will feel ever grateful to him if the line should be completed during his tenure of office.

BHARAT MIHIR,
September 12th, 1878.

18. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 13th September, asks Government to establish a rural Sub-Registry office at Tálá, an outpost of station Dumuria, in sub-division Khoodna of the Jessore District. Tálá is a populous village; and if the proposal is carried out, Government will not be put to any loss. There is a Sub-Registry office at Dumuria, but as the communication is not easy between that place and Tálá and the adjacent villages, and it is difficult to obtain lodgings there, the present proposal should receive the attention of the authorities.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
September 13th, 1878.

FAMINE.

GRANVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
September 7th, 1878.

19. The *Grāmvartā Prakāshikā*, of the 7th September, dwells on the high prices prevailing at the present time, and the consequent distress among the people. In

spite of adverse seasons and floods, the outturn of the *aus* crop was not bad ; but so soon was it consumed, that no one knows where it has gone. The only remedy for this state of things will be found in preventing the exportation of food from this country. The editor regrets to observe that, although he has persistently urged this point on the attention of the Rulers, they have always turned a deaf ear to his representations.

MURSHIDAMDAB
PATRIKA,
September 13th, 1878.

20. The *Moorshedabad Patrikā*, of the 13th September, remarks that the present distress would not have been so great if there had been a scarcity of only one article of food. But the soil of India, it would seem, now withholds every kind of crop. Not only rice, but pulses and vegetables are scarce. Excepting salt, no article of food is cheap. The scarcity of herbs and vegetables used as food is greater than it has been for the last 40 years. There is just one ray of hope that lights the dismal prospect. There has been rain all over the country, and a good rice crop is expected.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
September 14th, 1878.

21. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 14th September, notices a gradual rise in the prices of rice in Eastern Bengal. There is consequently great distress among the people. Many are obliged to live on only one meal a day. With the exception of those who have saved something, and those who have reaped a jute crop, agriculturists are pinched with want. Relief operations should be begun, and the exportation of grain stopped.

DACCA PRAKASH,
September 15th, 1878.

22. The *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 15th September, gives similar accounts of the distress in Eastern Bengal, and agrees with its contemporary in advocating relief operations and the prohibition of exportation.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 21st September 1878.

ROBERT ROBINSON,

Offg. Bengali Translator.